

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please substitute the following claims for the same-numbered claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for monitoring resources of a data processing network on behalf of consumer entities within the network, comprising the steps of:

determining monitoring requirements of a consumer entity;

comparing the monitoring requirements of the consumer entity with monitoring capabilities of a plurality of monitoring entities to identify at least one monitoring entity having monitoring capabilities matching the monitoring requirements of the consumer entity, wherein said monitoring entities are adapted to monitor said resources of said data processing network; and

in response to identifying at least one monitoring entity having monitoring capabilities matching the monitoring requirements of the consumer entity, selecting at least one of the identified monitoring entities and binding the consumer entity to the selected at least one monitoring entity.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~of~~ according to claim 1, all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference, wherein binding the consumer entity to the selected at least one monitoring entity comprises establishing a connection between the consumer entity and the selected at least one monitoring entity, sending a description of the consumer entity's monitoring requirements to the selected at least one monitoring

entity, and configuring the selected at least one monitoring entity to perform the required monitoring.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of according to claim 1, all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference, wherein the step of comparing requirements with capabilities comprises comparing requirements with a set of currently active monitoring capabilities of each of the plurality of monitoring entities.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of according to claim 1, all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference, wherein the step of comparing requirements with capabilities comprises comparing required monitoring metrics with monitoring metric capabilities of each of the plurality of monitoring entities.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of according to claim 1, all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference, wherein the step of comparing requirements with capabilities comprises comparing a required monitoring period with monitoring period capabilities of each of the plurality of monitoring entities.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of according to claim 1, all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference, wherein the step of comparing requirements with capabilities comprises comparing a required monitoring granularity with monitoring granularity capabilities of each of the plurality of monitoring entities.

7. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of~~ according to claim 1, all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference, wherein the step of comparing requirements with capabilities comprises comparing a required data format for monitoring data with ~~the~~ output data format capabilities of each of the plurality of monitoring entities.

8. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of~~ according to claim 1, all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference, further comprising the steps of:

the consumer entity sending a description of its monitoring requirements to a repository;

the plurality of monitoring entities sending descriptions of their respective monitoring capabilities to the repository; and

storing the descriptions of requirements and capabilities in the repository;

wherein the comparing step comprises comparing the descriptions of requirements and capabilities stored in the repository.

9. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of~~ according to claim 8, all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference, further comprising the step of creating a binding document describing the monitoring performed for the consumer entity by the selected at least one monitoring entity, and sending the binding document to the repository.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of according to claim 8, all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference, wherein the descriptions of monitoring entities' capabilities comprise a list of the metrics currently being monitored for each of a set of monitored resources.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of according to claim 10, all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference, wherein the descriptions of monitoring entities' capabilities comprise currently active monitoring parameters for each monitoring metric.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of according to claim 10, all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference, wherein the descriptions of monitoring entities' capabilities comprise the output data format for each monitoring metric.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of according to claim 1, all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference, further comprising the step of:

in response to a failure to identify at least one monitoring entity having monitoring capabilities matching all monitoring requirements of the consumer entity, initiating a negotiation between the consumer entity and a plurality of monitoring entities to select a best match, relative to other matches based on quality of service parameters, between the monitoring requirements of the consumer entity and the monitoring capabilities of the plurality of monitoring entities.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of according to claim 1, all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference, further comprising the step of:

using a common sub-expression finder module to identify a monitoring entity having at least one sub-expression in common with the consumer entity, and selecting the monitoring entity having the at least one common sub-expression.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for monitoring resources of a data processing network on behalf of consumer entities within the network, comprising the steps of:

determining monitoring requirements of a consumer entity;

comparing the monitoring requirements of the consumer entity with monitoring capabilities of a plurality of monitoring entities to determine whether any monitoring entities have monitoring capabilities matching the monitoring requirements of the consumer entity, wherein said monitoring entities are adapted to monitor said resources of said data processing network; and

initiating a negotiation between the consumer entity and a plurality of monitoring entities to select a best match, relative to other matches based on quality of service parameters, between the monitoring requirements of the consumer entity and the monitoring capabilities of the plurality of monitoring entities.

16-25. (Cancelled).

26. (Currently Amended) A data processing system for monitoring resources of a data processing network, comprising:

a data storage unit for storing monitoring capabilities of each of a set of monitoring entities;

a monitoring manager, responsive to monitoring requirements of a data consumer entity, for comparing the monitoring requirements of the data consumer entity with monitoring capabilities of monitoring entities stored in the data storage unit to identify at least one monitoring entity having monitoring capabilities matching the monitoring requirements of the data consumer entity, wherein said monitoring entities are adapted to monitor said resources of said data processing network, selecting at least one of the identified monitoring entities, and binding the selected monitoring entities to the data consumer entity.

27. (Currently Amended) The data processing system ~~of~~ according to claim 26, all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference, wherein the monitoring manager comprises:

a component for handling registration and de-registration of consumer entities and monitoring entities with a monitoring subsystem;

a selector for selecting at least one monitoring entity for a consumer entity; and

a connection manager for establishing a connection between the consumer entity and the selected monitoring entity.

28. (Currently Amended) The data processing system ~~of~~ according to claim 26, all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference, wherein the monitoring manager comprises a resource optimizer for determining a set of one or more monitoring entities capable of generating required monitoring data from data measured for a resource.

29. (Currently Amended) A distributed data processing system comprising:

- a set of data processing apparatuses each comprising at least one resource;
- a set of data processing apparatuses each comprising at least one consumer entity requiring monitoring data for a resource;
- at least one data storage unit storing a repository of monitoring requirements of the consumer entities and storing monitoring capabilities of each of a set of monitoring entities; and
- a monitoring manager, responsive to the monitoring requirements of a first data consumer entity, for comparing the monitoring requirements of the ~~first~~ first data consumer entity with the stored monitoring capabilities of monitoring entities to identify at least one monitoring entity having monitoring capabilities matching the monitoring requirements of the first data consumer entity, wherein said monitoring entities are adapted to monitor said resources of said data processing network, for selecting at least one of the identified monitoring entities, and for binding the selected monitoring entities to the first data consumer entity.

30. (Currently Amended) The distributed data processing system ~~of~~ according to claim 29, all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference, wherein the monitoring manager comprises a set of computer program components distributed across a plurality of data processing apparatuses.

31. (Cancelled).

32. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, comprising program code recorded on a recording medium, for managing monitoring of resources within a data processing network on behalf of one or more data consumer entities within the network, the program code comprising:

a monitoring manager, responsive to monitoring requirements of a data consumer entity, for comparing the monitoring requirements of the data consumer entity with stored monitoring capabilities of monitoring entities to identify at least one monitoring entity having monitoring capabilities matching the monitoring requirements of the data consumer entity, wherein said monitoring entities are adapted to monitor said resources of said data processing network, for selecting at least one of the identified monitoring entities, and for binding the selected monitoring entities to the data consumer entity.

33. (Cancelled).